

Joseph NIELSEN
in Midway

The JOSEPH NELSON FAMILY lived here for several years. They bought the Moroni Gerber farm which is the present site of the Midway Fish Hatchery. The family was active in all community undertakings.

JOSEPH and JANE HAMILTON NEILSON lived here in the earlier days. Mr. Hamilton was a blacksmith. They moved their family to Vernal, Utah.

Ownership of Midway Fish Hatchery Cold Springs

Moroni Gerber
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Joseph Nelson

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Utah State Midway Fish Hatchery

FISH HATCHERY

Midway Fish Hatchery, operated by the Utah Department of Fish and Game, began in 1909 as a private trout farm and has grown from that time to its present importance in the sports picture of eastern Utah.

The hatchery ground was homesteaded by James B. Hamilton in 1876 and from then until 1909 was used for farming. The Provo Valley Trout Company purchased the land. They also purchased the water right to the spring that headed in the John Murri property. The water was dammed up at intervals to raise fish. A home was built near the stream and eight fish runs were also constructed by Joseph Nelson and Mr. Erickson.

Midway Fish Hatchery

IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE . . .

591

In 1912 the Wasatch Trout Company purchased the hatchery and operated it until 1916 when John and William L. Van Wagoner bought the site and began regular marketing of fish to miners near Midway and Park City. George Van Wagoner and Bliss Titus cared for the plant.

The Van Wagoners operated the hatchery until 1921 when a private club, the Timpanogos Rod Club, under the direction of E. M. Bagley, president, purchased the property. The hatchery business was closed down and the streams used as fishing waters for club members only.

The State Fish and Game department leased the hatchery land in 1924 and began a long range program to improve the facilities. Cement runs, large ponds and streams and living facilities for those who operate the hatchery have been constructed. In 1939 Alma Durtschi and Angus Thacker patented a revolving screen to separate fish and keep them in their respective streams. In five months of operation the hatchery produced more than 5,000,000 trout annually for stocking rivers and lakes in the area. The fish are transported in special trucks to the Duchesne and Strawberry Rivers, Provo and south fork of the Provo River, Weber River, Wolf Creek, Deer Creek, Wanship Reservoir, Deer Creek Reservoir, Strawberry Lake, Moon Lake and a few of the Granddaddy lakes.

Though no records were kept, it is believed that the following have supervised the hatchery since 1909: Elmer Madsen, George Van Wagoner, Bliss Titus, Obrem Barrett, Henry Scheuller, Ben Butler, George Cox and David E. Wright. The hatchery is state owned and operated and is reported to be one of the largest and best hatcheries in the country.



cian Heaton and Janet Clotworthy Jacob. She died November 16, 1915.

Moroni Gerber was born under the humblest of circumstances in a dugout in Southern Utah where his family had been sent to colonize. His mother wrapped the new born boy in pieces of old quilts for she had no other clothing. Greens and roots were all the food any of the family had to eat, as their only cow had been stolen.

In 1861 the family moved to Wasatch County, locating near Snake Creek. Moroni attended his first schools in Midway. By the time Moroni was 11 his father had decided to move to Salt Lake where he practiced medicine and the family prospered. Moroni's formal education ended when he was 14, but he never stopped studying, and in later years was a teacher for six years in Wasatch schools.

Early in August, 1870, Moroni suffered a severe attack of typhoid fever, which lasted until the end of September. This same fall the family moved back to Midway and had been settled only two months when Dr. John Gerber died. Moroni was the eldest of the three children at home and had to help his mother who was also ailing. As her health improved she was able to practice as a midwife and practical nurse to aid her family. Moroni took advantage of the family's hand loom to learn weaving and rug making as a means of supporting the family. He also worked in the timber and sawmills. At the age of 19 he and Isaac Jacob began working together hauling logs and timber from the mountains. They sold the lumber and built up credits at the mill in preparation for building their own homes. Moroni finished his in 1878 and immediately moved his mother and sister Adelia into the home.

After his marriage in 1880 Moroni and Emily Jane lived in Midway and about five years later he built a small home for his

MORONI AND EMILY JANE JACOB GERBER

Moroni Gerber, son of Dr. John and Anna Maria Ackert Gerber, was born October 4, 1856, in Southern Utah, in a dugout where Cedar City is now located. He married Emily Jane Jacob, November 11, 1880, in the Salt Lake Endowment House. He died February 27, 1944.

Emily Jane Jacob Gerber was born May 20, 1862, in Heber City, a daughter of Lu-

mother and sister and moved into the first home he had built.

On December 4, 1887, Moroni received a call as a missionary in the Southern States, and was directed to be in Salt Lake City ready to go eight days later. Even though he was in debt, had nothing prepared for the winter for his family of four small girls, the oldest six, and there seemed other obstacles, he accepted the call and before leaving was able to clear up most of his indebtedness, plan for his family and have means to reach the mission field. Neighbors and friends took care of his land while he was away and through many resources his wife was able to carry on, so that when he returned there was no indebtedness and all was well. Friends even plowed his fields and planted his crop on his return home because of a period of illness he suffered for several months after returning.

About 1891 Moroni purchased 40 acres of ground about a mile south of Midway and moved his family there while he constructed a rock house in town. He did all of the building work himself, except for the masonry. In 1899 the family property in Midway was sold and the Gerbers moved to Uintah County.

Throughout the time Moroni and Emily Jane lived in Midway they were active in serving the community and Church. In 1890 Dr. Karl G. Maeser gave him a special call to organize the first Religion Class in the area. Through most of his adult life he was a Sunday School teacher, beginning his first class at 16. He served as superintendent, counselor, teacher and drama director in the MIA, and produced many plays to obtain funds for building and ward maintenance.

In Midway and in Uintah County Emily Jane supported her husband in his activities and cared for her family of 11 children. She was a faithful Relief Society teacher for many years. While living in Vernal Emily Jane became ill with cancer. She received constant medical attention, including treatment in a South Dakota hospital, but she ailed for 18 months and then died peacefully. Through her illness she was cheerful and her faith never wavered.

After his wife's death, Moroni and his family moved to Provo where the children attended school. He later moved to Mapleton in Utah County to farm, and then lived with his various married children.

During the winter of 1929 Moroni ful-

filled a six-month mission to the Southern States. He also spent much time in genealogical and temple work until ill health at 84 forced him to retire. He continued as actively as possible, and was able to dress himself almost until his death at the age of 87.

Children of Moroni and Emily Jane Gerber include:

- Janet A., married to G. S. Bingham;
 - Mable, married to Ralph Hacking;
 - Jean Elinor, married to Ellis Merkley;
 - Florence Rhoda, married to G. W. Richardson;
 - Irvin Moroni, married to Aurilla McKeey;
 - Stella, married to E. Ray Gardner;
 - Ether Lyman, married to Cornelia Hanks and later Minnie Hicks;
 - Fern Elizabeth, married to Bertrand Swain;
 - Hugh Jacob, married Edna Elmer;
 - John Wendell, married Mary Horricks;
 - Helen, married to Frank W. Jones.
- All children of the couple were married in the Salt Lake Temple.